Replacement of Existing EPZS with SEZS

†*688. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to replace existing Export Processing Zones with Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the names of such Export Processing Zones;

(c) the reasons for replacing them; and

(d) by when this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The four Export Processing Zones at Santa Cruz (Bombay), Kandla (Gujarat), Visakhapatnam and Cochin are proposed to be converted, for the present into SEZs on the basis of overall positive response from the units in these Zones with a view to give further boost to exports.

(d) The SEZs will become operational from the date to be notified by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Free Trade Zone in Rajasthan

*690. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Free Trade Zone in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) According to the present policy, Government of India will not be setting up hereafter any new Free Trade Zone (FTZ)/ Export Processing Zone (EPZ)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on its own as it has been decided that EPZs/ SEZs should be established either by the State Governments or in joint/private sector with the prior approval of the Central Government.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.